

# NO. 18.

## A GIFT TO THE RAILROADS.

Millions of Dollars Voted as a Free Gift By Congress—What is The MYSTERIOUS INFLUENCE?

The Conduct of the Railroads in The Last Campaign They Reduced The Number of Employees and Reduced Their Pay, While at The Same Time Increasing The Pay of Their Officials—Why The Railroads Went Into Politics—They Were The Most Powerful Allies of The Gold Trust—Why The Needless Waste of The People's Money to Help The Shyster Campaign Fund—Some Startling Facts and Figures.

The following is taken from the Congressional Record of February 27th, giving a part of the discussion on the proposition to vote big subsidies to the railroads for carrying the mails, in addition to the high price paid per ton and for rent of cars. Senator Butler exposed the deal and presented some startling facts and figures which no Senator was able to answer or explain away.

**SPECIAL RAILWAY MAIL SUBSIDIES FOR THE U. S. AT PLAYERS BY THE RAILROADS IN THE LAST CAMPAIGN.**

The Senate having under consideration the bill (H. R. 10289) making appropriations for the service of the Post-office Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898.

MR. ALLISON. I ask now for the consideration of the next amendment which remains undisposed of. The VICE PRESIDENT. The amendment will be stated.

THE SECRETARY. On page 8, line 4, after the word "service," it is proposed to insert:

In the discretion of the Postmaster-General, any unexpended balance of the appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, for necessary and special facilities on trunk lines may be used for other at-mail facilities.

So as to make the clause read:

For necessary and special facilities on trunk lines from New York and Washington, to Atlanta and New Orleans \$17,238.75. Further, that no part of the appropriation made by this paragraph shall be expended unless the Postmaster-General shall deem such expenditure necessary in order to promote the interest of the postal service. In the discretion of the Postmaster-General, any unexpended balance of the appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, for the necessary and special facilities on trunk lines, may be used for other fast mail facilities.

MR. BUTLER. I move to strike out the clause just read, from line 7, on page 8, down to and including line 3, on page 9, inclusive.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The question is on agreeing to the motion of the Senator from North Carolina.

MR. BUTLER. Mr. President, this is a subsidy, pure and simple. It should be stricken from the bill. These are large sums of money that people get some benefits in return for them, but they are utterly indecent when they are voted as a free gift. I challenge the Committee on Appropriations or any Senator to stand up here to give a single word and sufficient reason for appropriating this sum, of \$171,238.75, to estimate has been made or submitted for it. No head of any Department has recommended it. But the other hand the head of the Post office Department has positively refused to recommend it. I have heard the Postmaster General and the Assistant Postmaster General question it in the discussion of it. I have here some reports, and I hope those who have asked us to listen to the suggestion of the Postmaster-General and the Second Assistant Postmaster General and all the generalists will not pay due regard to what the Postmaster-General says about the subsidy.

MR. CULLOM. It has been read a dozen times.

MR. BUTLER. It has been read a dozen times and twenty times, and it has not converted the Senator from Illinois.

MR. CULLOM. Yes, it has.

MR. BUTLER. Will the Senator vote with me on my motion?

MR. CULLOM. I have always voted that way.

MR. BUTLER. Good. The Senator from Illinois will vote with me in this motion, and he always voted against this subsidy. I am glad to have such valuable authority in addition to what the Postmaster-General to back up my motion.

Several Senators around me say not us have a vote and we will knock out this section and carry my motion. The chairman of the Committee on Appropriations will agree to the motion. I will not detain the Senate for another minute.

Several Senators. Vote!

MR. STEWART. What is the motion?

MR. BUTLER. I have made a motion to strike out the clause which proposes to vote a special subsidy to certain railroads addition to the enormous price that we now pay these corporations for hauling the mails. Several senators seem very anxious to have no discussion of this matter. I should judge that they favor the subsidy, for reasons best known to themselves, or else do not understand the fact; in the case. In the next event discussion is very necessary. I do not desire to detain the Senate at this late hour, but unless the committee will agree to the motion, or unless there is some indication that the Senate is ready to sustain the motion, I shall detain the Senate to put on record the reason why it should be stricken out.

MR. FAULKNER. The committee are not agreed to it.

MR. DAVIS. It is a part of the bill that it comes from the other House.

MR. WILSON. I want to hear from

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